

## **.43 Forest Products**

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)
Sonoma/Gerlach
Activity
Forest Products
Objective Number
F-1

Objective: F-1

Enhancement and/or preservation of curleaff mountain mahogany, quaking aspen, and cottonwood stands as important components of the natural landscape.

Rationale:

Stands of curleaff mountain mahogany, aspen, and cottonwood are of rare occurrence within the planning area. According to .43 Forest Products section of the Unit Resource Analysis, only 2,877 acres of mahogany and 3,748 acres of aspen and cottonwood are known to exist in the planning area. Most stands of mahogany presently are in from poor to fair condition. Indicators of this condition are the minimal occurrence of mahogany seedlings, and the severely hedged state of those seedlings present. Also, the majority of older trees have a "shrubby" growth form and/or are "highlined" due to the excessive browsing by domestic livestock and/or wildlife or wild horses. Livestock grazing appears to be the primary impact on aspen and cottonwood, resulting in many stands being in from poor to fair condition. These stands are composed largely of mature trees with little or no seedlings or suckers present. As the mature trees die and resulting regeneration is suppressed, stands will deteriorate and be lost. As important components of the natural landscape, the stands of mountain mahogany and aspen have been identified as potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the URAs. Mahogany and aspen should be afforded management consideration to prevent irreparable damage to the stands. Management should provide for adequate seedling establishment, sustainment of the stands in size and vigor, and provide potential for normal growth. Due to mountain mahogany's intolerance to fire, these stands should be protected from fire.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma/Gerlach

Activity

Forest Products 1.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

F-1 Step 3

Recommendation: F 1.1

MFP I

By FY 1982, design and implement livestock grazing management systems to meet the physiological requirements of aspen in allotments containing this species. Also implement a grazing system to enhance and increase the condition of present stands of aspen. This will be done by providing for a minimum of three consecutive years of complete rest during each grazing cycle (usually a period of 12 to 15 years) or sufficient rest to allow aspen reproduction to grow out of reach of cattle or sheep (45" and 36" respectively). These rest periods may be constrained to portions of the following allotments which contain aspen:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Planning Unit</u>
Rock Creek	05
Thomas Creek	05
Harmony	05
Diamond S	05
Coal Canyon - Poker	05
Rye Patch	05
Humboldt House	05
Star Peak	05
Rawhide	05
Pleasant Valley	05
Buffalo Hills	03
Soldier Meadows	03

Develop livestock grazing management systems in allotments where mountain mahogany exists which provide for one grazing season of deferment (rest until after seed dispersal date which is approximately Sept. 10) followed by at least three grazing seasons of complete rest in each grazing cycle. This may be constrained to only the portions of the allotments which contain mahogany. Allotments which contain mahogany are the Buffalo Hills, Soldier Meadows, Leadville, and Star Peak. This will be accomplished by FY 1983.

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RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)	Sonoma/Gerlach
Activity	Forest Products 1.1
Overlay Reference	
Step 1	E-1
Step 3	

F 1.1 (continued)

Rationale:

Aspen and cottonwood require protection through a specialized grazing system because new sprouts require three to five years in order to reach a height at which livestock are unable to damage them by nipping off the terminal bud. This treatment of continuous rest is needed to allow rejuvenation to begin and release a new generation of trees within the stand. In this way, healthy stands can be preserved and poor stands may be enhanced without adverse impact.

The system for mahogany will potentially permit new seedlings to become established and gain some vigor before livestock are allowed to graze in these areas again. In reality, mountain mahogany seedlings may require 10-20 years before they are somewhat resistant to grazing pressure, but this system will allow more establishment than is occurring at present. The year of deferment will allow seed to be produced and then help trample it into the soil.

A standard one-year rest grazing system has been considered as an alternative, but it is not appropriate for these species because of the slow growth of the young trees and the amount of time required for them to grow out of reach of livestock. Therefore, this alternative was not selected because it will not satisfactorily provide for the requirements of Objective F-1. Another possible alternative to grazing systems is to fence stands of mountain mahogany and aspen to eliminate livestock use in these areas.

Economically the recommendation would adversely affect livestock grazing because non-use of pastures is required.

Support:

Support will be necessary from Range Management in special design of the management systems. Range studies will be necessary to monitor the species growth to determine if adequate height and vigor has been achieved.

Multiple Use Analysis

Complement

Watershed 3.1 - establish a goal of all grazing management plans to increase ground cover to at least 70% in order to reduce or eliminate accelerated erosion.

Watershed 3.2 - encourage maximum vegetation cover by limiting the use of vegetation, wild horses and/or wildlife to proper use levels as recommended in the Proper Use Tables, referred to in NSO Memorandum 76-167.

Wildlife 1.7 - in allotments designated for grazing system development in this land use plan, the forage allocation for wildlife will be entirely within the pastures in which the wildlife use actually occurs, and pastures will not be stocked at rates above their estimated carrying capacity.

Wildlife 1.8 - improve riparian habitat condition throughout the planning area, and once desired improvements have occurred, maintain riparian habitat in good or excellent condition. See recommendation for suggested methods of improvement.

Some suggested methods were intensive livestock management, another was protective fencing.

The aspen habitat is usually found in the planning area in association with riparian habitat.

Wildlife 1.9 - improve or maintain the condition of a minimum of 3,750 acres of aspen habitat in the resource area.

Areas or allotments that contain sufficient stands of aspen should contain at least four pastures. Pastures that contain large amounts of aspen should be rested for four consecutive years. This rest should be repeated on a 12-15 year cycle.

This treatment will be applied on the following allotments:

Soldier Meadows  
Buffalo Hills  
Rock Creek  
Diamond S  
Harmony  
Thomas Canyon  
Sonoma  
Pleasant Valley  
Rawhide  
Star Peak

Remaining allotments which contain smaller amounts of aspen habitat will require rest-rotation systems of no less than three pastures.

As an acceptable alternative fence aspen stands where neither a three or four pasture system is implemented.

Fence all stands not meeting the objectives because of livestock grazing, regardless of the allotments system design.

Aspen must be considered key or critical areas when designing allotment management plans.

Wildlife 1.5 - the following areas should be designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Public lands in:

1. Riparian areas along major stream (see overlay)
2. Wetlands associated with upper Rye Patch Reservoir, Humboldt Sink, and Carson Sink (see overlay).

The wetland areas described in number 2 are also being recommended for ACEC designation as endangered species habitat (Recommendation WL 1.6).

Much of the aspen in the planning area occurs adjacent to riparian areas along major stream.

Wildlife Aquatic 1.1 - to mark streams and other water sources for special management attention and to assure that adequate management is provided to improve and maintain the condition of the resource area's fishing streams at a level which meets the management objectives of the resource area,

designate the resource fishing streams as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (URA and MFP Overlays). In support of Terrestrial Wildlife Recommendation WL 1.5, and since much of the reasoning for the designation of the fishing streams as ACEC also applies to the resource area's streams which do not support a sport fishery, designate those riparian/stream zones identified by Terrestrial Wildlife MFP Recommendation WL 1.5 as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The resource area's non-fishing waters are further identified on Water Resources Overlay (Developed and Non-developed Waters) as well as the Sonoma-Gerlach Water Resource Inventory.

Designate Mahogany Creek and its water which is enclosed in the Mahogany Creek Natural Area and Summer Camp Creek which is tributary to Mahogany Creek as ACEC for spawning habitat for its Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (URA).

Designate the ~~Soldier~~ Meadows Warm Springs as ACEC for ~~Soldier~~ Meadows desert dace habitat. The Soldier Meadows desert dace is found nowhere but in these warm springs and has been proposed as a threatened or endangered species (URA).

Wildlife Aquatic 1.2 - it is recommended that riparian/stream zones be identified as separate management units and removed from general management under grazing systems. This can best be done by fencing the riparian/stream zone to prevent grazing use. The following streams would provide the most benefit per cost of fencing. This determination was made on the basis of percent public ownership and stream flow volume: Soldiers Creek, Bushee Creek, Clear Creek, Coyote Creek, Hoffman Canyon Creek, Rocky Canyon Creek, and Sonoma Creek. Priority should be given to Clear Creek and Sonoma Creek because of their proximity to a population center. Plans to fence those streams not found suitable at this time should be developed to allow fencing of the entire stream or private lands along the stream are acquired through sale or exchange.

Wildlife Aquatic 1.4 - include the improvement then maintenance of the condition of the riparian/stream habitat and the fishery resource as an objective of the allotment management plans or grazing systems associated with the fishable streams in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area (MFP Overlays). Require that only rest-rotation grazing systems be used on the watersheds of these streams. Utilize all or any combination of the following list as best livestock management options to protect the resource area's riparian stream zones. Revise existing AMPs to include these objectives and management opinions.

1. Require that grazing cycles for AMPs or grazing systems associated with the resource area's fishable streams go to completion. Modification or interruption of the cycle is to be allowed only when it is determined that system objectives are not being met.

2. Design AMPs or grazing systems to utilize fish habitat factors as indicators of overutilization of the riparian/stream zone rather than upland plant species or riparian plant species. The fish habitat factors to be used are bank stability, percent shading the siltation of pools and spawning gravels.
3. Use of the riparian/stream zone as allotment or pasture boundaries.
4. Design the pastures to be of a size which allows management of the riparian/stream zone for fish habitat, i.e., require that the pastures surrounding a riparian/stream zone be of the smallest size which conditions specific to that allotment allow.
5. Provide a period of three consecutive years rest in each grazing cycle.
6. Utilize recommendations from HMPs in the design of AMPs or grazing systems.
7. To reduce erosion from the watershed and improve its water retainment ability, prevent mechanical damage from livestock by deferring turnout until the range has stabilized and vegetation is established. This period will vary with elevation. Pastures should be designed with this factor in mind.
8. Require herding of livestock away from riparian/stream zone.

Wild Horse and Burros 1.3 - remove all wild horses/burros from the following checkerboard HUAs in a three year period. (See Recommendation for list).

#### Conflict

Range Management 1.2 - review and update the following existing grazing management systems as needed and identified on Table RM 1.2.

Allotments that are included on this list and also on F 1.1 and/or WL 1.9 are:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Concern</u>
Rock Creek	Aspen
Coal-Canyon Poker	Aspen
Rye Patch	Aspen
Sonoma	Aspen
Leadville	Mahogany



Range Management 1.4 - (a) develop and implement intensive grazing management systems on the following allotments or combination of allotments. All of the allotments or combination of allotments listed will be at a minimum of four pasture intensive grazing system.

- \*1. Diamond S-Melody-Harmony-Thomas Creek
- \*2. Rock Creek-Sonoma
  - 3. Pumpernickel Allotment
- \*4. Clear Creek-Dolly Haden
  - 5. Pleasant Valley
- \*6. Prince Royal-Star Peak-Klondike
- \*7. Rawhide-South Rochester
- \*8. Blue Wing-Seven Troughs
  - 9. Desert Queen
  - 10. Soldier Meadows-Piaute Meadows
- \*11. Buffalo Hills-Calico
- \*12. Rodeo Creek-Pole Canyon
- \*13. North Buffalo-Licking-(Copper Canyon in Battle Mountain District)
- 14. Humboldt Sink

\* Consider as One

(b) manage the following allotments on a non-intensive grazing system basis. At least two pasture differed system.

- 1. Humboldt House
- 2. White Horse

(c) manage the following allotments on a non-intensive basis.

- 1. Cottonwood
- 2. Jersey Valley
- 3. Ragged Top

Wild Horse and Burro 1.1 - designate four Herd Management Areas (HMA) for the protection and preservation of wild free-roaming horses/burros.

HMA #1. Sonoma Herd Management Area or the Button Point HMA.

HMA #2. Granite Range Herd Management Area

Wild Horse and Burro 1.2 - establish Herd Use Areas (HUAs) in areas for extensively management of wild horses and burros.

HUA on areas involved in this recommendation are:

- Tobin - HUA
- Black Rock West - HUA
- Calico - HUA

Wild Horse and Burro 1.4 - make all water that is presently found on public land available for wild horse and burro use. All waters that are available to horse or cattle in herd use areas will remain available yearlong for horse use.

Develop a water distribution system that is suited for horse use and compatible with wildlife use. All new water developments within HMAs or HUAs will be required to use this system.

Recreation 3.1 - allow no action to degrade the Visual Resources listed in Classes I, II, III, or IV.

Aspen is often associated with riparian habitats. Eliminating use by livestock, in aspen or mahogany types for a minimum of three years on at least a four pasture system for those allotments identified would result in an almost impossible situation from the standpoint of implementing and designing a workable grazing system.

The allocation of the suitable forage among wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros should reduce the amount of grazing pressure exerted on these critical vegetation types.

Development of grazing systems or revisions of existing grazing systems would additionally reduce or reverse the adverse affects of livestock grazing on the allotments that contain significant amounts of aspen or mahogany vegetation.

From the standpoint of wildlife habitat aspen and mahogany are extremely important or "critical" habitat types.

The Sonoma URA, in which a majority of the aspen type in the planning area is located states:

The condition of aspen within the unit is generally fair. Crown cover is relatively dense in most stands, and reproduction is fair to good. Aspen in the Sonoma Range, the Humboldt Range, and on Granite Mountain in the East Range is in the best condition and those ranges contain the largest stands.

Overall, the trend of aspen throughout the unit is static. In some areas, stands are increasing in size; while in others, stands are badly deteriorated. Aspen is generally holding its own in the areas it inhabits, with only localized areas showing deteriorated or remnant stands. In areas where fire has burned through the stands, the aspen has been rejuvenated and the trend is upward (Sonoma Forestry URA Page 6).

Regarding the condition and trend of aspen in the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit, the URA states:

The condition of aspen within the unit is generally good. Crown cover is relatively dense in most stands, and reproduction is fair to good. The stands in the Mahogany Creek area are exceptionally good, as there has been no licensed livestock use since 1973 (see Figure 5).

Overall, the trend of aspen is slightly upward. Mountain ranges where aspen grow have more of a static trend, due to heavier livestock use in these areas or marginal site factors. Aspen in the Mahogany Creek area is on an upward trend. The Granite Range aspen is increasing in some areas, while the trend is static in others. Due to reduced livestock use in the Granite Burn area, some stands of aspen have been rejuvenated and are increasing dramatically. (Buffalo Hills Forestry URA page 7).

F 1.1

Multiple Use Recommendation

In the design, implementation or revision of grazing management systems, plans for horse use areas, consider aspen, cottonwood, and mahogany as "critical" management species.

Specific management objectives will be designed for these critical species and these objectives will be used in the activity plans developed on an area.

Rationale

Coordinated planning efforts on an area should develop realistic objectives for these critical management species that will be part of a grazing management plan, horse management plan, or habitat management plan.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

UNITED STATES  
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma/Gerlach

Activity

Forest Products 1.2

Overlay Reference

Step 1: F-1 Step 3

Recommendation: F 1.2

MFP 1 Preserve the existing 2,877 acres of curleaff mountain mahogany through an active fire suppression program and by prohibiting the harvesting of this species for wood products.

Rationale:

Refer to objective rationale. Due to the significance of this resource no other alternative was considered.

Support:

Support for this recommendation is from fire management in minimizing occurrence of fire in these areas and law enforcement to prevent unauthorized harvesting.

F 1.2

Multiple Use Recommendation

Preserve the existing 2,877 acres of curleaff mountain mahogany through an active fire suppression program and by prohibiting the harvesting of this species for wood products.

Rationale

Mahogany is considered a "critical management species". This species also should be protected from fire as mountain mahogany is a weak sprouter after fire and fire tends to destroy the stand. Where mahogany is adjacent to streams, the use of a retardant and heavy equipment can be eliminated.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma/Gerlach

Activity

Forest Products 1.3

Overlay Reference

Step 1 F-1 Step 3

Recommendation: F 1.3

**MFP I** Utilize prescribed burning, fencing, and/or clear-cutting to enhance deteriorated stands of aspen and cottonwood. Prohibit the harvesting of aspen or cottonwood for wood products except where harvesting has been identified as a management tool.

Rationale:

Refer to rationale for Objective F-1. Fire has been proven to be a relatively inexpensive and useful tool in the stimulation and rejuvenation of fire tolerant plant species. The policy of aggressive fire suppression has in the past reduced the beneficial impacts which may result to the natural ecosystems. Therefore, fire under a controlled situation should be reintroduced into plant communities where definite benefits will result.

Clear-cutting, particularly in aspen stands, may have similar results as prescribed burning but without some of the risks that are associated with fire. One other alternative considered was the use of a herbicide to perform the same function as fire or clear-cutting. However, it was determined that the recommendation could be adequately accomplished without the use of herbicides. Fencing is an alternative that may be feasible on some small stands.

Support:

Support is required from fire management in the location and design of prescribed burns and from range in providing protection of burned areas from livestock and wild horse grazing until areas have adequately recovered. Due to inadequate data on condition and trend of the subject species, a complete inventory of specific stands is needed to determine the type and location of management action necessary for stand improvement. Support is required from law enforcement to protect this resource from unauthorized use.

Prescribed  
Fire  
Herbicides

F 1.3

Multiple Use Recommendation

Where feasible and practical utilize prescribed burning, fencing, clear cutting, and/or herbicides to enhance deteriorated stands of aspen and cottonwood. Prohibit the harvesting of aspen or cottonwood for wood products except where harvesting has been identified as a management tool.

Rationale

Recommendation lists methods of stand improvement, herbicides should not be excluded as a possible treatment method.

Standard procedures would be followed in implementing this recommendation, EA, coordinated resource planning, etc. This would insure that important cultural/historical concerns are protected/mitigated prior to implementation.

Support

1. Fire Management Plan
2. Cultural Input on EAs

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.



## MFP I

### Recommendation: F 1.4

Establish all curllleaf mountain mahogany stands in the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit and all aspen stands as Areas of Critical Environemtnal Concern in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. Prevent irreparable damage and loss of these stands from the natural landscape.

### Rationale:

The total acreage of these tree species is extremely small as stated in the rationale for Objective F-1 and in .43 Forest Products section of the URAs. The uniqueness of these natural ecosystems in the planning area causes them to be in need of the special designation of ACEC to prevent irreparable damage and loss from the natural landscape.

It is Bureau policy to inventory public lands as specified under subsection 201(a) of FLPMA and identify areas requiring special management consideration to prevent irreparable damage.

### Support:

Support is necessary from mining to refrain from irreparable damage or loss of these stands by exploration and development activities. Support from range, fire management and forest products is necessary as discussed in Rationale for Recommendations F 1.1, F 1.2, and F 1.3.

## MFP III

### DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Reject the recommendation.

### Rationale:

Bureau policy does not provide for areas to become ACECs if management can be obtained through other means. Mountain mahogany stands will be protected through standard bureau procedures and through other recommendations in this Management Framework Plan.

UNITED STATES  
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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN - STEP 1  
ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

Name (MFP)

Sonoma-Gerlach

Activity

Forest Products

Objective Number

F-2

Objective: F-2

Provision of available forest products to satisfy local demand.

Rationale:

The demand and need for forest products within the District has risen considerably for several years, as indicated by .43 Forest Products section of the URAs. Fuel wood and Christmas trees seem to be the commodities which have shown the greatest increase in demand. As shown in the URAs, the planning area has an adequate resource of pinyon and juniper to meet the demands of the local populace for many years as long as proper management is applied. Although an area for the harvest of most forest products is presently available, it is located from 60 to 70 miles from Winnemucca and also considerable distance from Lovelock. Due to the energy crisis, the demand for areas in closer proximity to population centers has risen, especially for the harvest of forest products such as fuel wood.

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma/Gerlach

Activity

Forest Products 2.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1 F-2 Step 3

Recommendation: F 2.1

Establish a post and fuel wood harvesting area in the Buffalo Hills which is in the close vicinity of Gerlach by FY 1982. Also, establish post and fuel wood harvesting areas which are closer to the population centers of Lovelock and Winnemucca by FY 1984. All of these harvest areas will be limited to the use of live and/or dead juniper.

Rationale:

Preliminary investigation indicates that areas with substantial juniper stands and available access may be closer to population centers than the Stillwater Range, and may potentially supply some harvest of fuel wood and posts to meet increasing demands. With higher transportation costs, areas such as these are more desirable than areas which require long distances to be traveled. After a woodland inventory is accomplished and more definitive information on harvestable forest products are known and a management plan prepared, some of these areas may be opened for harvesting. Potential harvest areas are listed by mountain range as follows:

East Range

1. Raspberry Creek
2. Yellowstone Canyon
3. Willow Canyon
4. Barber Canyon - Natchez Pass
5. Horseshoe Canyon
6. Kennedy Canyon

Humboldt Range

1. Humboldt Canyon
2. Black Canyon
3. John Brown Canyon (Coyote Creek)
4. Star Creek

Tobin Range

1. Bushee Creek
2. Cottonwood Creek
3. South Smelser Pass Area

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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma/Gerlach

Activity

Forest Products 2.1

Overlay Reference

Step 1

F-2 Step 3

F 2.1 (continued)

Buffalo Hills

T. 34 N., R. 21 E., Sec. 6, 7, and 18

T. 34 N., R. 20 E., Sec. 13 and 24

Other areas may also be present and have potential for the harvest of forest products.

Support:

Support is required from Operations to determine legal status on the ground due to the "checkerboard" status of many of these areas. Also, access may need improvement. Support will also be needed from the Watershed and Wildlife activities to determine the potential impact on soil and wildlife. Support is also required from law enforcement to control and supervise harvest.

Multiple Use Recommendation

Establish <sup>c</sup>past and fuel wood harvesting areas in the following locations.

East Mountain Range - Areas of Emigrant and McCann Canyons and Natchez Pass area. Described as follows:

T. 33 N., R. 36 E., Sec. 12  
                            Sec. 13  
                            Sec. 24                               1,920 acres

T. 33 N., R. 37 E., Sec. 7, All public  
                            Sec. 18  
                            Sec. 19  
                            Sec. 30  
                            Sec. 31, All public  
                            Sec. 29, W1/2                               3,400 acres

Area of Yellowstone Canyon

T. 31 N., R. 37 E., Sec. 3  
                            Sec. 4  
                            Sec. 9                               1,920 acres

Tobin Mountain Range - Bushee Creek Area

T. 29 N., R. 39 E., Secs. 33, 34, 35, 35  
T. 28 N., R. 39 E., Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 12  
    and all public lands in Secs. 10 N1/2,  
    11 N1/2                               6,400 acres

Issue only non-commercial permits in these areas.

Rationale

Increasing demand for fuel wood areas. The areas listed are in basically solid block public land areas.

There is not sufficient amounts of forest products available to issue commercial permits in these areas.

Multiple Use AnalysisComplement

Range Management 2.1 - increase existing allocatable forage by artificial methods by:

1. Seeding or reseeding 266,106 acres
2. Controlling brush composition on approximately 21,290 acres
3. Development of water sources

F 2.1 (continued)

The brush control and seeded areas will be rested for two full growing seasons after treatment or until seedlings are firmly established.

After substantiated by studies, allocate all increases of forage to livestock.

A proposed plow and seeding project has been identified in the same area of the Buffalo Hills that this forestry recommendation has recommended designated as a fuel wood harvesting area.

Wildlife 1.2 - preserve broadleaf woodland habitat in the entire resource area by:

1. Limiting firewood and post cutting permits to pinyon and juniper;
2. Responding quickly in fire situations where ~~not~~-coniferous woodlands are involved.

Conflict

Watershed 3.4 - prohibit land disposals, any land treatment or disturbance activities which would likely result in or significant reductions (by 50% or more) the amount of vegetative cover in areas designated as having (a) "high" erosion susceptibility or (b) "high" vegetal-soil factor.

The proposed fuel wood area in Kennedy Canyon, Cottonwood Creek, Bushee Creek in the Sonoma Planning Unit and the area identified in Buffalo Hills have either "high" vegetal-soil factors or "high" erosion susceptibility factors.

Watershed 4.1 - prevent any surface disturbing action or other management action which would result in the destruction of existing populations of Federally listed or State listed endangered, threatened or sensitive plant, any plant proposed for such status. Establish the locations of occurrence of any such plants as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

The proposed fuel wood cutting areas in Humboldt Canyon has been identified as habitat for Phacelia inconspicua. This plant is classified as critically endangered under state law and is proposed for consideration as to T/E status under federal law.

Wildlife 1.24 - limit off-road vehicle use during the lambing season (February 1 to May 31) in bighorn sheep use areas as reintroductions are made, and in other crucial wildlife habitats as they are identified.

All proposed fuel wood areas are within potential bighorn sheep habitat.

Wildlife 1.25 - limit new trail or road construction on potential bighorn sheep range to minimize access. Potential bighorn sheep ranges include the

F 2.1 (continued)

following:

- Fox Range
- Buffalo Hills
- Granite Range
- Calico Range
- Black Rock Range
- Selenite Range
- Sonoma Range
- Tobin Range
- East Range
- Stillwater Range
- Humboldt Range
- West Humboldt Range

All proposed fuel wood areas are within potential bighorn sheep habitat.

Cultural 1.7 - designate the following areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern:

1. All sites rated S1 or S2.
2. All high probability areas identified on URA Overlay 1 for each of the three planning units.
3. The Applegate-Lassen Trail and environs as defined in Recommendation 1.2.

Wilderness 1.2 - all activities within Intensive and Wilderness Study Areas under Wilderness Review will be in accordance with the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines.

The proposed fuel wood area in the Buffalo Hills is within an area recommended as a Wilderness Study Area.

There has been a 44% annual increase in the number of fuel wood permits sold in the resource areas. There is enough estimated supply of fuel wood in the Stillwater Range to meet increasing demand for fuel wood through 1990.

In 1979, 107 cords of fuel wood were sold within the three cutting areas in the Stillwater Mountain Area (PAA page 58).

There is also a predominate public attitude that the BLM should provide a source of forest products on public land and should not restrict the locations from which wood can be removed (PAA page 60).

Access and checkerboard land status complicate designating a fuel wood cutting area for juniper throughout most of the Sonoma Planning Unit.

F 2.1 (continued)

The Interim Management Guidelines for lands under wilderness review lists the following policy pertaining to fuel wood sales:

Domestic firewood gathering, conducted under BLM permits, may be allowed to continue in areas where it was being done before October 21, 1976 (including cross-country use of motor vehicles), only so long as it satisfies the nonimpairment criteria.

There was no authorized fuel wood areas in the Buffalo Hills prior to October 21, 1976.



Forest  
Products

F 2.1

MFP II

Multiple Use Recommendation

Establish noncommercial post and fuel wood harvesting areas in the following locations.

East Mountain Range - Areas of Emigrant and McCann Canyons and Natchez Pass area. Described as follows:

T. 33 N., R. 36 E., Sec. 12	
Sec. 13	
Sec. 24	1,920 acres

T. 33 N., R. 37 E., Sec. 7, All public	
Sec. 18	
Sec. 19	
Sec. 30	
Sec. 31, All public	
Sec. 29, W1/2	3,400 acres

Area of Yellowstone Canyon

T. 31 N., R. 37 E., Sec. 3	
Sec. 4	
Sec. 9	1,920 acres

Tobin Mountain Range - Bushee Creek Area

T. 29 N., R. 39 E., Secs. 33, 34, 35, 35	
T. 28 N., R. 39 E., Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 12	
and all public lands in Secs. 10 N1/2,	
11 N1/2	6,400 acres

Issue only non-commercial permits in these areas.

Rationale

Increasing demand for fuel wood areas. The areas listed are in basically solid block public land areas.

There is not sufficient amounts of forest products available to issue commercial permits in these areas.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale. Establish fuel wood area in the Tobin Range only if it is released from wilderness consideration.

Rationale

The Tobin Range has been recommended as a wilderness study area. Interim guidelines conflict with this as a fuel wood area.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
RECOMMENDATION-ANALYSIS-DECISION

Name (MFP)

Sonoma/Gerlach

Activity

Forest Products 2.2

Overlay Reference

Step 1 F-2 Step 3

Recommendation: F 2.2

Continue to intensively manage the Stillwater Range for the harvesting of all available forest products.

Rationale:

Several forest products are available in the Stillwater Range that are not available anywhere else in the planning area. Among these are pinyon pine Christmas trees and pinyon nuts. There is also substantial amounts of fuel wood yet available in the area. This area has historically been valuable for forest products and there is public demand for use of the area for recreation in conjunction with the harvest of forest products. The harvest of forest products from this area is not endangering the resource and in some cases is actually helping it. Access to new harvest areas may be required to continue sustained yield of forest products.

Support:

Support may be required from Operations to improve or create access to new harvest areas. Support is also required from law enforcement to control harvest.

MFP II

F 2.2

Multiple Use Recommendation

Continue to intensively manage the Stillwater Range for the noncommercial harvesting of all available forest products.

Rationale

Substantial amounts of fuel wood, Christmas trees and fence posts available in this area. High public demand, which is increasing annually.

Intensive management of this forest resource should benefit both the forestry resource and other resource values in the area.

Support

Need to acquire physical access to these cutting areas.

MFP III

DISTRICT MANAGER'S DECISION:

Accept the Area Manager's recommendation and rationale.